

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 CEA-01 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8447

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 2101

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EI PL

SUBJ: DRAFT IRISH ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

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REF: DUBLIN 1943

1. IRISH AND POLISH NEGOTIATING TEAMS INITIALLED A DRAFT ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 1 IN DUBLIN. ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE, DR. DONAL THORNHILL, WHO HEADED THE IRISH TEAM, THE IMPETUS FOR THIS AGREEMENT CAME FROM THE POLES AND IT WAS ORIGINALLY BROACHED IN 1974 BY THE POLISH TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN DUBLIN. HEAD OF THE POLISH TEAM VISITING DUBLIN WAS STANISLAW BRZOSKA OF THE FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY. IRELAND AND POLAND WILL SOON EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS (SEE DUBLIN 2098), BUT AS YET THERE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. ACCORDING TO THORNHILL THE POLES FIRST INTRODUCED A DRAFT WHICH WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE. THE IRISH COUNTERED WITH A DRAFT THEY HAD OBTAINED FROM THE EC COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS WHICH WAS THE "STANDARD" TREATY OF THIS TYPE WHICH MANY EC COUNTRIES HAVE CONCLUDED WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. WITHOUT MUCH DEMUR THE POLES ACCEPTED THE EC DRAFT AND THE NEGOTIATIONS WENT FAIRLY SMOOTHLY. THORNHILL SAID THAT THE DRAFT IS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THE DRAFT INITIALLED WITH THE SOVIETS ON SEPTEMBER 10 (SEE REFTEL). A JOINT COMMISSION WILL BE SET UP WHICH THE IRISH EXPECT TO USE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT TRADE PROBLEMS. FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1976 IRELAND EXPORTED GOODS VALUED AT 3.1 MILLION POUNDS TO POLAND (CONTAINERS, TIRES, LEATHER PRODUCTS, SOME CHEMICALS) WHILE IMPORTING FROM POLAND GOODS VALUED AT 8.1 MILLION POUNDS (MOSTLY COAL). THE IRISH BELIEVE THEY HAVE SOME CHANCE OF IMPROVING THESE FIGURES AND THAT WAS THE MAIN REASON THEY AGREED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE AGREEMENT. THORNHILL ADMITTED THAT THE AGREEMENT IS A "SURROGATE TRADE AGREEMENT" WHICH IS TECHNICALLY AGAINST EC RULES, BUT HE SAID THAT THE IRISH WERE MERELY BELATEDLY FOLLOWING THE LEAD OF OTHER EC COUNTRIES.

3. THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH POLAND AND THE COMPANION SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT WILL HAVE A LONG AND ROCKY ROAD BEFORE FINAL RATIFICATION, THOUGH THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROBABLY

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AGREE TO SIGNING THEM. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD WILL PROBABLY SIGN FOR THE IRISH DURING HIS MOSCOW TRIP IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER. INCIDENTALLY, WE HAVE HEARD THAT FITZGERALD IS EXPECTING AN INVITATION TO VISIT WARSAW, WHICH HE WOULD BE INCLINED TO ACCEPT.

4. ACCORDING TO THORNHILL, IRELAND HAS, AT PRESENT, NO INTENTIONS OF NEGOTIATING SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER

EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BUT COULD CERTAINLY CHANGE ITS
MIND IF THEY STARTED IMPORTING IRISH GOODS. CURLEY

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